

ORM Principles



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ORM has four key principles that govern its application. These underlying principles should be considered before, during, and after every application of the Six-Step Process.

1. **Accept no unnecessary risk.**
Of course, all USAF missions and daily routines involve risk. You must accept necessary risk required to successfully complete the mission or task. Unnecessary risk comes without a corresponding return, in terms of real benefits or available opportunities. ORM is dedicated to exposing and avoiding unnecessary risks.
2. **Make risk decisions at the appropriate level.**
Those accountable for the success or failure of the mission must be included in the risk-decision process. This establishes clear accountability. Commanders must ensure that subordinates know how much risk they may accept and when they must elevate the decision to a higher level.
3. **Accept the risk when the benefits outweigh the costs.**
Even high-risk endeavors may be undertaken when there is a clear knowledge that the sum of the benefits exceeds the sum of the costs. ORM is about controlling risk, not avoiding all risk.
4. **Integrate ORM into Air Force doctrine and planning at all levels.**
Integrating risk management into planning as early as possible provides the decision-maker the greatest opportunity to apply ORM principles. Usually, it reduces costs and enhances ORM's overall effectiveness too.

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